

Sigma Phi Omega invites its chapter faculty sponsors to vote for the following persons to run for office.

Please take the time to view each biosketch before voting.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR SIGMA PHI OMEGA OFFICERS, 2007 ELECTION

Janice I. Wassel
President-Elect

Dr. Janice I. Wassel is Director of the Gerontology Program and Co-Director of the Dual Degree MS in Gerontology-MBA at the University of North Carolina—Greensboro, where she also serves as advisor for the Delta Gamma Chapter of SPO. Dr. Wassel earned a B.A. (Sociology) from Pacific Lutheran University, and a M.A. and Ph.D. (Sociology and Demography) from The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Wassel's research interests include the role that employer pensions have on job mobility patterns for women, the effect which caregiving has on retirement decisions and the risk of caregiving across the life course for men and women.

Dr. Wassel is a long-standing member of Sigma Phi Omega. Her commitment to Sigma Phi Omega is demonstrated by her service, for the past three years, as editor of the SPO newsletter. Additional committee work has included Member-at-large for Southern Gerontological Society, Program Committee GSA, Public Policy Committee for both AGHE and GSA, member of the AGHE Business and Aging Task Force, AARP Business and Aging initiative national board, and member AGHE Faculty Committee.

Rona Karasik
Treasurer

Dr. Rona Karasik is Professor of Community Studies and Director of the Gerontology Program at St. Cloud State University, where she is a lifetime member of SPO and also serves as co-advisor for the Beta Zeta Chapter of SPO. Dr. Karasik holds a B.A. (Psychology), M.A. (Family Studies/Aging) and Graduate Certificate (Gerontology) from the University of Connecticut, and a Ph.D. (Individual and Family Studies/Aging) from the University of Delaware. Dr. Karasik's research interests include intergenerational service-learning, aging in the community, housing for older adults and later life family caregiving.

Following a term as SPO Member-at-Large, Dr. Karasik is just completing her first term on the national SPO board as Treasurer. Dr. Karasik is active in several local and national associations, including GSA and AGHE (where she serves on the Academic Program Development Committee).

Scott Wright
Secretary

Dr. Scott Wright is an Associate Professor and Director of the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program at the University of Utah, where he is a member of the Alpha Chi Chapter of SPO and has served as the faculty liaison for the Chapter. Dr. Wright earned a B.S. (Biological Science) from McNeese State University, and an EdM

(Adult Education) and Ph.D. (Human Development/Gerontology) from Oregon State University. Dr. Wright's research interests include environmental hazards and aging, distance education, web-based (online) curriculum, retirement trends for older adults and demographic patterns and aging.

Dr. Wright is a long-standing member of Sigma Phi Omega and an active member of AGHE. He is President-Elect of the Utah Gerontological Society and has been involved in special committees and working groups of the Utah Commission on Aging. Dr. Wright is/has been involved in several local and national organizations, including the American Society on Aging, Society of Human Ecology and the National Council on Family Relations.

Althea Taylor-Jones

Member-at-Large

Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Gerontology Program at Winston-Salem State University, where she also serves as advisor for the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of SPO. Dr. Taylor-Jones holds a B.S. (Recreation) from Tennessee State University, an M.A. (Rehabilitation Psychology and Counselor Education) from Appalachian State University, and a Ph.D. (Human Development) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her research interests include supportive relationships as process and psychosocial stress and hypertension among older African Americans.

Dr. Taylor-Jones has been involved with education, research, and service in the field of aging since the early 1990s, making contributions in the areas of program development, implementation, and evaluation with students, faculty, and aging consumers. Dr. Taylor-Jones is very actively involved with collaborative community partnerships to plan programs, forums, seminars and aging related conferences. She is also actively involved with the NC Institute of Aging, NC Gerontology Consortium, NC AARP, Senior Tar Heel Legislators and other professional aging services organizations.